

A meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee was held on Friday, July 27, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in room 4090 at CCRI's Knight Campus.

Present: ASAC: Joan Abrams; Antonio Barajas; Jane Sherman; Jay Walsh (Chair)

RIBGHE: Tessa Constant

URI: Don DeHayes, provost and vice president for academic affairs

RIC: Eric Hall, chair of biology; Ron Pitt, vice president for academic affairs; Holly Shadoian, assistant vice president for enrollment management; Earl Simson, dean of arts and sciences

CCRI: Maureen McGarry, dean of allied health programs; Lela Morgan, vice president for academic affairs; Ron Schertz, Assistant Vice President for Student Services

RIOHE: Judith Brissette, consultant; Joyce Fennell, consultant; Deborah Grossman-Garber, associate commissioner for academic policy and planning; Phyllis Harnick, planning specialist; Susan LaPanne, associate commissioner for finance and management; Hope Schachter, budget analyst; Deanna Velletri, executive assistant

Absent: Ray Di Pasquale; Tom Rockett

Guests: Karen Chabot, owner, SAMA; Rep. Robert B. Jacquard (attorney for Karen Chabot)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of June 18, 2012

ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT WAS VOTED –

THAT the Academic and Student Affairs Committee approves the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2012.

VOTE: 4 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Abrams, Barajas, Sherman, Walsh

NEAS: 0

2. Chair's Report

Chair Jay Walsh welcomed committee members and gave an overview of the agenda. He thanked committee members for their flexibility in rescheduling this meeting.

3. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner DiPasquale was not in attendance. Associate Commissioner Deborah Grossman-Garber said that RIOHE will co-host with the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) a post-secondary education summit on September 14th. The event will bring together multiple leaders

discussing challenges and an action plan on student access and persistence. An invitation to participate will be forthcoming.

4. Approval of a Proposal from Rhode Island College to offer the B.S. in Health Sciences

Vice President Ron Pitt introduced co-presenters Eric Hall, chair of biology, and Earl Simson, dean of arts and sciences. CCRI's Maureen McGarry, dean of allied health programs; Joanne Jacobs, Respiratory Therapy Program Director; and Kathleen Gazzola, Dental Health Programs, Department Chair/Dental Assisting Program Director, were acknowledge for their work in this process. He said from 2008 to 2011 enrollment in education programs at RIC has declined 20%. Areas at the college that have grown over the past few years include biology (27% growth), BSW 22%, health care administration has 100 students enrolled after one year in existence, math and computer science is up 17%, psychology is up 20%, sociology and criminal justice is up 48%, and accounting is up 35%. The B.S. in Health Sciences is a response to the shift in student interest noted above.

Through collaborative meetings with CCRI, RIC constructed a completion program for dental hygiene and respiratory therapy in response to demands for a baccalaureate program in the field. These completion programs are embedded into this 4-year program.

Governor Sherman asked if students entering into health-related programs are trained in the requirements of HIPAA. Professor Hall said that most do but not the human services concentration. He said that it would be good to add it.

Chair Walsh commended the cooperation and collaboration that took place between RIC and CCRI and said that it is important to highlight this as the public scrutinizes duplication of efforts.

Governor Abrams asked if RIC was looking to address other programs that are losing enrollments. Vice President Pitt said that RIC addresses this issue by shifting resources and through the bi-annual review of low-completion programs.

Dean Maureen McGarry commented on the meaningful process that took place behind the scenes in developing this program. She also acknowledged Phyllis Harnick for her important work in supporting transfer.

ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT WAS VOTED:

THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve the proposal to offer the B.S. degree program in Health Sciences at Rhode Island College, upon the condition that system transfer plans and a JAA plan be completed no later than October 15, 2012.

VOTE: 4 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Abrams, Barajas, Sherman, Walsh

NEAS: 0

5. **Notice from the University of Rhode Island: Undergraduate major name change from Environmental Horticulture and Turfgrass Management to Plant Sciences**

Provost DeHayes said that turfgrass and horticulture are strong fields in Rhode Island. Unfortunately, the words are not popular with high school students. The University decided to signify the program with a more broadly defined and enticing program title.

6. **Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island: Discussion and guidance on possible revisions**

Associate Commissioner Deborah Grossman-Garber introduced Dr. Judith Brissette to summarize her research of the RIBGHE *Regulations Governing Proprietary Schools in Rhode Island*, her comparison to similar state regulations, and her suggestions for clarifying and simplifying the process in Rhode Island.

Dr. Brissette said that proprietary schools have become much more visible on the radar screens of higher education boards across the country due to the increase in numbers and the issues related to student indebtedness. She described the approval process to operate a school as being complex and cumbersome in every state but emphasized that Rhode Island's current regulations accomplish what we are mandated to do: protect the citizens and student consumers of Rhode Island. She said a universal problem with proprietary schools and for-profit institutions is student indebtedness and the relationship of these schools with lending agencies. Governor Sherman suggested that this is an issue the ASAC should address.

Chair Walsh asked about the difference between non-degree-granting proprietary schools and degree-granting for-profit schools. Dr. Brissette said that for-profit institutions require approval by the general assembly to operate in Rhode Island and be accredited by NEASC. At the moment, no for-profits are operating in Rhode Island. Without the two requirements above, an institution could seek approval to operate in Rhode Island by following the *Regulations Governing Institutions of Higher Education Operating in Rhode Island*. Governor Sherman suggested that these regulations be researched as well.

Governor Abrams suggested that oral and written promises made to students be monitored. Dr. Brissette said that it is not easy to monitor; approved schools are required to submit an enrollment agreement for approval and that each student must sign and receive a copy.

Governor Sherman suggested that the proprietary schools be notified of the board-approved complaint procedure and that this information be distributed to current and incoming students.

Chair Walsh suggested that a mechanism be put in place where students could be solicited for feedback regarding their proprietary school experience, particularly in relation to the suggestions of Governors Sherman and Abrams.

Associate Commissioner Grossman-Garber said we have little control or authority over a school when a student comes forward with a complaint. It was suggested that this be incorporated into the annual renewal process.

Provost DeHayes suggested that IRB approval be explored in the case of schools dealing with human subjects.

Chair Walsh summarized the discussion moving forward. He said the next set of regulations to discuss will be the independent regulations, after which priorities will be set to move forward.

Associate Commissioner Grossman-Garber said that we will need to set a path and a scope of work for either the proprietary school or the independent institutions regulations.

Dean McGarry added that there is no active board of massage therapy at the Department of Health so oversight is not there.

7. Approval of a proposal from the *School of Allied Massage and Ayurveda* to operate as a proprietary school in Rhode Island

[This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting following the commissioner's report.]

Associate Commissioner Grossman-Garber introduced Karen Chabot, owner of SAMA, and her attorney, Representative Bob Jacquard. She noted the detailed and in-depth approval process and thanked Ms. Chabot and RIOHE staff member Joyce Fennell for the extra effort provided in bringing the proposal forward for approval. Governor Sherman asked if massage instruction would be conducted on classmates or dummies and, if so, would any additional liability be required or if an institutional review board (IRB) would be required. Joyce Fennell said she discussed the curriculum with the Department of Health including the clinical portion of the program and received their approval. Governor Sherman also asked about financial support for students. Ms. Chabot said she will allow students to pay tuition at monthly increments with no interest charged. Governor Constant asked how the program differs from CCRI's program. Ms. Chabot said she offers only a certificate. Provost DeHayes expressed his concern about students who will be looking for a means to transfer previously acquired content knowledge into institutions of higher education. Ms. Chabot responded that she would accept credits from accredited institutions of instruction.

ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT WAS VOTED:

THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education grant initial, one-year approval for the *School for Allied Massage & Ayurveda* to operate as a proprietary school in Rhode Island

VOTE: 4 members voted in the affirmative, and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Abrams, Barajas, Sherman, Walsh

NEAS: 0

8. Other Matters

There were no other matters discussed.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.